Atty Dkt No. VEI 0374 PUS

S/N: 09/996,430 Reply to Office Action of June 21, 2004

Remarks

Applicants' representative thanks Examiner Haran for the indication of allowed

subject matter. In the office action dated June 21, 2004 the Examiner restricted claims 12 and

16 as directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally

claimed. Claims 1-4, 8 and 13 were previously canceled. Claims 5-7, 9-11 and 14-15 were

indicated as allowed. While the Examiner has failed to provide evidence that there is a serious

burden on the Examiner which is a criteria for a proper restriction requirement (see, MPEP

§ 803), in order to expedite the prosecution of this case by this amendment Applicants'

representative elects with traverse claims 5-7, 9-11 and 14-15, and cancels claims 12 and 16

without prejudice.

Consequently, in view of the above and in the absence of better art, Applicants'

representative respectfully submits the application is in condition for allowance which

allowance is respectfully requested. No fee is believed to be due for the filing of this paper.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this

paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss prompt

resolution of any remaining issues necessary to place this case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason T. Murar, et al.

Thomas W. Saur

Reg. No. 45,075

Attorney/Agent for Applicant

Date: July 13, 2004

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